

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 10-16 are pending in this application. By the present Amendment, claim 6 has been amended to more distinctly define the invention. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added to the application.

I. 35 USC §103 CLAIM REJECTIONS

The claims stand rejected as follows:

- A. Claims 6 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,569,327 (the '327 patent) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,354,407 (the '407 patent);and
- B. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC §103 in view of the '327 and '407 patents further in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,674,348 (the '348 patent).

As mentioned above, independent claim 6 has been amended to recite that a portion of the housing for an "Apparatus for moistening and sealing an envelope" is formed by "at least a portion of the tank housing portion including the window". This recited feature is particularly advantageous in aiding a user when removing the tank so as to fill and/or refill it.

It is submitted that none of the above cited references (namely the '327, '407 and '348 patent) either alone or in combination with one another, teach or suggest this feature. At best the background of the disclosure for the '327 patent mentions that a window may be included in a tank. This certainly does not teach or suggest one skilled in the art the feature of forming a portion of the housing of a mailing machine with "at least a portion of the tank housing portion including the window", as currently recited by claim 6.

Accordingly, it respectfully submitted that independent claim 6, along with its depending claims 10-14, as currently amended overcome the subject 35 USC §103 rejections and that removal thereof is requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 6 and 10-14 are now in a condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, he is kindly urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end, positioned above the printed name.

Christopher J. Capelli

Reg. No. 38,405

Attorney for Applicants

Telephone (203) 924-3849